

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00381 212029Z  
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /111 W  
-----212032Z 001561 /43

R 201044Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7103  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 0381

3.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, KU  
SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE

REF: (Q) STATE 4508 (B) GENEVA 9294

1. DURING COURSE OF REVIEW OF ILO OPERATIONS IN KUWAIT, EMBOFF AND GOK MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR'S COMPTROLLER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ABDULLA GHLOOM HUSSEIN DISCUSSED UPCOMING ILO GOVERNING BOARD (GB) MEETING IN GENEVA, LATE FEBRUARY-EARLY MARCH, 1977. HUSSEIN WILL BE ON GOK DELEGATION, WHICH WILL BE HEADED (IN ALL PROBABILITY) BY HIS MINISTER, SHEIKH SALEM AL-SABAH.

2. HUSSEIN STATED THAT PRIME GOK CONCERN AT GB MEETING WOULD BE TO PURSUE MATTER MF RESOLUTION IX ON TREATMENT OF ARAB WORKERS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. STATING THAT GOK WAS DISSATISIFIED WITH DG'S PROPOSAL TO "CLOSE THE BOOK" ON THE MATTER IN NOVEMBER 19 REPORXN HUSSEIN OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD "GO BAD" FOR DG IF HE WERE TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO AGAIN. EMPHASISING GOK DESIRE TO AVOID "CLASHES" AT MEETING HUSSEING SAID THAT GOK WAS WILLING TO "WAIT" TO GIVE THE DG MORE TIME TO PREPARE A DETAILED REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION IX. GOK WOTD DEFINITELY SUPPORT RAISING MATTER AT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 00381 212029Z

NOVEMBER 1977 ILO GENERAL MEETING IF A DETAILED REPORT IS NOT SUBMITTED BY THEN.

3. HUSSEIN DECLINED TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON POSSIBLE REVIVAL OF OPSHAHL MISSION (PANE. 2 REF A). HE DID COMPLAIN THAT MISSION WAS UNJUSTIFIED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH RESOLUTION IX SPONSORS. HUSSEIN INSISTED THAT RESOLUTION IX WAS CLEAR

IN MANDATING ACTION ON IMPROVING CONDITION OF ARAB  
WORKFCS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND THAT MISSION ITSELF AS  
AT THAT TIME UNNECESSARY.

4. COMMENT: FROM ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOK WILL SUPPORT ARAB EFFORTS TO THE FULLEST AT GEMEVA. WHILE GOK HAS BEEN NOTABLE IN ITS EFFORTS TO ALIENATE AS FEW PERSONS AS POSSIBLE, AND HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES TRUUS THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO, GOK INTERESTS ALSO LIE MOST STRONGLY IN NOT GETTING OUT OF STEP WITH ARAB BROTHERS. IN PREPARATION FOR PREVIOUS ILO/WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE/ILO/GENERAL MEETING, GOK HAD EMPHASIZED ITS DESIRE TO AVOID CONFLICTS ON POLITICAL GROUNDS,

YET, WHEN IT CAME TO THE POINT, FULLY SUPPORTED BOTH ARAB AND GROUP OF 77 RESOLUTIONS. GOK MODERATION, SUCH AS IT EXISTS, IS THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE TACTICAL; I.E. GOK MAY WISH TO AVOID RAISING ISSUE DIRECTLY AT NEXT GB MEETING, ALLOWING TIME (UNTIL NOVEMBER) FOR DG TO PRODUCE A REPORT ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARABS, BUT WILL NOT SUPPORT "CLOSING THE BOOK" EOMTWETELY.

5. ONE INTERESTING COMMENT MADE BY HUSSEIN DURING EARLIER MEETINGS WAS THAT GOK AND HE, PERSONALLY, RESENTED MANNER WITH WHICH US LABOR REPRESENTATIVE TO ILO, IRVING BROWN, PRESENTED US LABOR POSITION ON ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION. HUSSEIN SAID THAT GOK MUCH PREFKKERRED APPROACH BY BRITISH AND FRENCH, WHO, WHIL SUPPORTING U.S. POSITION, DID SO IN A LESS ABRASIVE MANNER. THIS ACCORDS WITH GOK DESIRE, (AS PHRASED BY HUSSEIN) TO AVOID T"CLASHES". WHETHER A LESS ABRASIV USG LINE AT GENEVA WOULD INCREASE SUPPORT FOR US POLICIES, HOWEVER, IS QUESTION-  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 00381 212029Z

ABLE, SINCE IT ISTLIKELY THAT GOK WOULD GO ALONG WITH OTHER ARAB STATES IN ANY CASE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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